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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims, which includes the Examiner's Amendments made in the Notice of Allowance dated September 13, 2004, will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of rendering a material hydrophilic, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a material comprised of hydrophobic or borderline hydrophilic components,;
 - (b) increasing the surface energy of said material via an irradiation technique; and
 - (c) applying a plurality of nanoparticles to said material having an increased surface energy, wherein the material having said nanoparticles applied is capable of absorbing bodily exudates and is hydrophilic.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said material comprises a textile such as a nonwoven material comprised of hydrophobic or borderline hydrophilic structural components.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material are at least partially comprised of a polyolefin.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material are at least partially comprised of polyethylene.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material are at least partially comprised of polypropylene.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of increasing the surface energy of said material is performed by a treatment selected from the group consisting of corona discharge treatment; plasma treatment; UV radiation; ion beam treatment; electron beam treatment; laser treatment; and combinations thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said nanoparticles are selected from the group consisting of non-photoactive nanoparticles, photoactive nanoparticles, passified photoactive nanoparticles, and combinations thereof.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein after step (c), the surface of the treated material becomes hydrophilic having an advancing contact angle with water of less than 90° after 30 seconds of spreading.
- 9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said material having said nanoparticles applied is used in an article that is selected from the group consisting of diapers, incontinence products, and catamenial products.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said components are selected from the group consisting of topsheets, acquisition layers, distribution layers, wicking layers, storage layers, absorbent cores, absorbent core wraps, containment structures, and combinations thereof.
- 14-23. (Cancelled)
24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the material with nanoparticles applied thereto is a nonwoven textile which exhibits a liquid strike-through time less than or equal to about 10 seconds after three 5 mL gushes of a test liquid according to a Strike Through Test.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the material with nanoparticles applied thereto is a nonwoven textile which exhibits a liquid strike-through time less than or equal to about 6 seconds after three 5 mL gushes of a test liquid according to a Strike Through Test.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the material with nanoparticles applied thereto is a nonwoven textile which exhibits a liquid strike-through time less than or equal to about 3 seconds after three 5 mL gushes of a test liquid according to a Strike Through Test.
27. (Cancelled)